

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are the pending claims, with Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 being independent claims.

Claims 1-3 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts (U.S. Pat. No. 6,490,351) in view of Shirakawa (U.S. Pat. No. 6,534,953) and Gerhard (WO 94/10782).

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Shirakawa and Gerhard, and further in view of Matsuo (U.S. Pat. 6,526,293).

Claims 8-11, 15-17, 20, 22-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,744,933) and Gerhard.

Claims 12-13, 18-19 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Inoue et al. and Gerhard, and further in view of Matsuo.

Claims 14, 21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Inoue et al. and Gerhard, and further in view of Eckhardt (U.S. Pat. No. 6,461,568).

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-12, 14-15, 17-18, 20, 22 and 27-28 are amended. No new subject matter is presented.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner states that Roberts in view of Shirakawa and further in view of Gerhard renders the claim obvious. Amended Claim 1 teaches, in part, a mobile phone charger for charging a battery of a mobile phone, the mobile phone charger comprising a charging current generator generating a charging current; and *a sterilizer sterilizing the battery and the mobile phone upon a change of charging mode from one of a pre-charge mode, a constant current mode, and a constant voltage mode to another.*

Roberts discloses a mobile phone charger 76 for charging a battery of a mobile phone 70, the mobile phone charger 76 comprising a charging current generator 64 generating a charging current; and a sterilizer 22 sterilizing the battery and the mobile phone 16 (FIG. 7, col. 2 lines 25-31, col. 3 lines 11-13, col. 4 lines 26-31 and 60-65, col. 6 lines 9-13, and col. 8 lines 33-65). Roberts asserts that the sterilizer operates “during the charging phase” (col. 2 lines 25-31), and subsequently repeats similar assertion (col. 4 lines 26-31 and 60-65, col. 6 lines 9-13, and col. 8 lines 33-65). The sterilization in Roberts occurs upon the sterilizer circuitry being “switched ‘on’ when the telephone handset is in the telephone handset cradle” (col. 6 lines 9-13) and lasts “during the charging phase” (col. 2 lines 25-31). Roberts hints nowhere that the sterilization is upon a change of charging mode as claimed in Amended Claim 1. Roberts fails to disclose, or even suggest, the limitation of *a sterilizer sterilizing the battery and the mobile phone upon a change of charging mode from one of a pre-charge mode, a constant current mode, and a constant voltage mode to an other* taught by Amended Claim 1.

Shirakawa discloses a battery charging apparatus generating a charging current, with no sterilization capability (FIGs 1-3, col. 6 lines 48-53). Shirakawa also fails to disclose the limitation of *a sterilizer sterilizing the battery and the mobile phone upon a change of charging mode from one of a pre-charge mode, a constant current mode, and a constant voltage mode to an other* taught by Amended Claim 1, and thus fails to cure the defects of Roberts.

Gerhard discloses a process for charging cordless equipment at predetermined intervals, with no sterilization capability (Abstract). Gerhard also fails to disclose the limitation of *a sterilizer sterilizing the battery and the mobile phone upon a change of charging mode from one of a pre-charge mode, a constant current mode, and a constant voltage mode to an other* taught by Amended Claim 1, and thus fails to cure the defects of Roberts.

Clearly, Amended Claim 1 structurally differs from Roberts, Shirakawa, Gerhard, or any combination thereof.

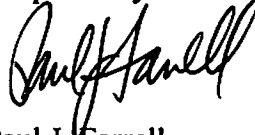
Regarding the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the above rationale for Amended Claim 1 also similarly applies to Amended Claim 8 with respect to Roberts, Inoue et al., Gerhard, or any combination thereof.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the above rationale for Amended Claim 1 also similarly applies to Amended Claim 15 with respect to Roberts, Inoue et al., Gerhard, or any combination thereof.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the above rationale for Amended Claim 1 also similarly applies to Amended Claim 22 with respect to Roberts, Inoue et al., Gerhard, or any combination thereof.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely Claims 1-29, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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